

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A point-of-sale system
2 comprising a host unit and a plurality of point-of-sale
3 terminal units connected thereto via a predetermined
4 communication line for data transfer/receipt between each
5 point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:
6 maintenance programs for the point-of-sale system
7 are stored in the host unit;
8 execution programs of the point-of-sale system
9 are stored in the host unit; and
10 each point-of-sale terminal unit is not provided
11 with any point-of-sale system execution program, and has at
12 least a transmission data generating function and a
13 communication function for data exchange with the host
14 unit;
15 the transfer/receipt data is subjected to data
16 quantity reduction and compression; and
17 the data reduction and compression are performed
18 in units of image data frames by comparing the present
19 frame and immediately preceding frame of transferred data,
20 only data recognized to have been changed with respect to
21 the immediately preceding frame being compressed.

Claim 2-4 (canceled)

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1 3, wherein the data quantity reduction
3 and compression are executed by a process of transferring
4 only position data and character data in character data
5 frames.

1 Claim 6 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein the point-of-sale system is
3 managed by a managing system provided only on the host unit
4 side.

1 Claim 7 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein each communication between
3 the point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit is
4 executed via a network selected from a group consisting of
5 a LAN and a WAN.

1 Claim 8 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein data having been sent out
3 from a point-of-sale terminal unit to the host unit side is
4 not held in the point-of-sale terminal side.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): A point-of-sale system
2 comprising a host unit and a plurality of point-of-sale
3 terminal units connected thereto via a predetermined
4 communication line for data transfer/receipt between each
5 point-of-sale terminal unit and the host unit, wherein:
6 execution programs of the point-of-sale system
7 are stored in the host unit;
8 each point-of-sale terminal unit is not provided
9 with any point-of-sale system execution program, and has at
10 least a transmission data generating function and a
11 communication function for data exchange with the host
12 unit; and
13 execution programs of the point-of-sale system
14 are updated only at the host,

15 wherein the transfer/receipt data is subjected to
16 data quantity reduction and compression, and
17 wherein the data reduction and compression are
18 performed in units of image data frames by comparing the
19 present frame and immediately preceding frame of
20 transferred data, only data recognized to have been changed
21 with respect to the immediately preceding frame being
22 compressed.

Claims 10-12 (canceled)

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): A system for effecting point
2 of sale functions, the system comprising:
3 a) a host, the host including means for storing all
4 programs related to execution of the point of sale
5 system, and means for storing all programs related to
6 maintaining the point of sale system;
7 b) at least two point of sale terminals, each of the
8 at least two point of sale terminals having
9 i) means for generating transmission data, and
10 ii) means for exchanging data with the host; and
11 c) communication means coupled with the host and each
12 of the at least two point of sale terminals, and
13 facilitating communications between the host and each
14 of the at least two point of sale terminals, wherein
15 the communication means include means for performing
16 data quantity reduction and compression in units of
17 image data frames by comparing the present frame and
18 immediately preceding frame of transferred data, only
19 data recognized to have been changed with respect to
20 the immediately preceding frame being compressed.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): In a system including a host,
2 at least two point of sale terminals, and communications
3 means coupled with the host and each of the at least two
4 point of sale terminals, and facilitating communications
5 between the host and each of the at least two point of sale
6 terminals, a method for effecting point of sale functions,
7 the method comprising:

8 a) storing, solely at the host, all programs related
9 to execution of the point of sale system;
10 b) generating, by each of the point of sale
11 terminals, data related to sales; and
12 c) forwarding the data related to sales from each of
13 the point of sale terminals to the host as soon as the
14 data is generated, wherein the data is subjected to
15 data quantity reduction and compression, and wherein
16 the data reduction and compression are performed in
17 units of image data frames by comparing the present
18 frame and immediately preceding frame of transferred
19 data, only data recognized to have been changed with
20 respect to the immediately preceding frame being
21 compressed.

1 Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14
2 further comprising:

3 d) purging, as soon as the data related to sales has
4 been forwarded to the host, the data related to sales
5 from the point of sale terminal forwarding the data.

1 Claim 16 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a voice input.

1 Claim 17 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 of claim 9 wherein at least one of the plurality of
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a voice input.

Claim 18 (canceled)

1 Claim 19 (previously presented): The system of claim 13
2 wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals
3 includes a voice input.

1 Claim 20 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 of claim 1 wherein at least one of the plurality of
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a display and a
4 printer.

1 Claim 21 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 of claim 9 wherein at least one of the plurality of
3 point-of-sale terminal units includes a display and a
4 printer.

Claim 22 (canceled)

1 Claim 23 (previously presented): The system of claim 13
2 wherein each of the at least two point of sale terminals
3 further includes a display and a printer.

1 Claim 24 (currently amended): Apparatus for use in a
2 system including a bank-related system for executing
3 settling processes based on sales data and a credit-related
4 system for executing settling processes based on sales
5 data, the apparatus comprising:
6 a) a host unit;

7 b) a shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit for
8 generating the sales data;
9 c) a maintenance center, for executing system
10 maintenance, the maintenance center being provided
11 independent of, and separate of, the host unit; and
12 d) data transfer lines connecting the host unit to
13 each of (1) the shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit,
14 (2) the bank-related system, (3) the credit-related
15 system, and (4) the maintenance center,

16 wherein the sales data used by the bank-related
17 system and credit-related system are provided from the
18 shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit, and

19 wherein programs for executing processes on the
20 shop-side point-of-sale terminal unit for a plurality of
21 different kinds of services are stored solely on the host
22 unit.

1 Claim 25 (previously presented): The point-of-sale system
2 according to claim 1, wherein a purchase amount settling
3 function is performed exclusively on the host.

1 Claim 26 (previously presented): The method of claim 14
2 further comprising:

3 d) settling a purchase amount exclusively using the
4 host.

1 Claim 27 (previously presented): The system according to
2 claim 13, wherein the host provides at least two of the at
3 least two point of sale terminals with different services.